At a glance: Visa for studying

Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation
General entitlement requirements (Section 5 Act on the Residence - AufenthG): passport, proof of financial means, no existing reason for expulsion

Step 1
Check the requirements
- German university entrance qualification (if applicable, entrance qualification for preparatory college (Studienkolleg))
- Foreign or German school-leaving certificate with university entrance qualification (in the case of doctorate and master’s degree: corresponding recognised university degree)
- Secure financial means (scholarship, blocked account with at least EUR 11,208 (as of 2023) or letter of commitment)
- Proof of language skills, if required

Please consider: Requirements may vary due to intergovernmental agreements and special arrangements.

Step 2
Make an appointment at the German embassy
- Preparation of necessary documents: e.g. passport, university entrance qualification, university admission or confirmation of attendance at a preparatory college, proof of financial means, proof of language skills (if required), visa application form

Please consider: The German embassies provide information about possible waiting times for appointments and any additional documents that may be required on their websites.

Step 3
Apply for a visa in the country of residence
- Bring documents in their entirety
- Fees: EUR 75 (in local currency)

Please consider: Processing time ranges from a few days to several weeks.

Step 4
Enter Germany
- Issuance of visa for studying
- Book flight/journey to Germany

Please consider: It is mandatory to have sufficient health insurance coverage prior to entering Germany.

Step 5
Apply for a residence permit in Germany
- Make appointment with foreigners authority
- Apply for residence permit for studying (Section 16b Act on the Residence - AufenthG)
- Request a list of the required documents from the foreigners authority and prepare them
- Handling fees can be up to EUR 100 (Section 45 Residence Ordinance - AufenthV)

Please consider: The residence permit must be applied for before the entry visa expires.

This overview is a simplified representation of the visa procedure. The steps described are solely for the purpose of clarifying the application procedure for residence permits. Further details on the visa application procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.

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